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INFORMATION REPORT REPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OUNTRY Cuba/Venezuela UBJECT Explosive State of Cuba/Batista's Foattion Strength of Opposition/Boom in Venezuela/Evidence of Dictatorship/Army Power/Construction of Public Works/Standard of Living 25X1A2g LACE ACQUIRED (By source) DATE of INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which, evenis or conditions described in report existed) Sep-Oct 54 THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION		CONTROLS, IF ANY	AGE FOR ADDITIONAL SPECIAL	SEE BOTTOM OF PA	
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pinch and are joining the opposition. There seems to be a fairly well organized campaign to bring economic factors into play to eventually oust Batista. Money and credit is tight and the situation, is developing along the lines of the revolt against Machado in 1933, when the economic forces of the country put the pressure on the government and for him out. In doing so they paved the way, in the resulting chaos, for the rise of the then "sergeant" Batista. History seems to be repeating itself in Cubaand the pendulum that has traditionally swung from dictatorship to revolt to chaos and back to dictatorship, seems to have about reached	med fi- i 25X ne ficed	the spending for the armed the fact that most industriuse they felt he would be a my are beginning to feel the eems to be a fairly well nto play to eventually oust tuation, is 25 set Machado in 1933, when the e on the government and forced he resulting chaos, for the seems to be repeating itself tally swung from dictatorship teems to have about reached the	tself on all social levels economically, and despite men supported Batista becan the national economy, many the opposition. There so bring economic factors is credit is tight and the silines of the revolt again he country put the pressur o they paved the way, in trgeant" Batista. History endulum that has tradition	through and assert i forces has been felt alists and business stabilizing factor i pinch and are joinin organized campaign t Batista. Money and developing along the economic forces of thim out. In doing s rise of the then "se in Cubaand the p	3.
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middle of its journey.

Boom in Venezuela

4. In Venezuela there is a tremendous boom, and in the mad scramble for money, politics seem to have been lost in shuffle. Colonel Marcos Perez Jimenez is sitting firmly in the saddle, and his well trained army is his chief support. Among newspaper and radio people, there is much talk of revolt, and there is open resentment because of infringement of freedom of expression. El Nacional, El Universal and La Esfera, the three principal newspapers, are in varying degrees of the opposition, but they are not allowed to print anything against the regime.

Evidence of Dictatorship

there were at least 3,000 men in exile or in political prison, but 25X1X6 5. this is hard to prove. The only evidence of dictatorship for the average citizen is the evident special privileges enjoyed by anybody in uniform. A man can be arrested for what is termed "disrespect to the uniform" and thrown into jail without trial. So everybody talks about baseball, and any political opinions have to be extracted in very peronal conversations with friends of long standing. One doesn't hear any anti-government talk in casual exchanges.

Army Power/Organization of Baseball

6. One little incident may illustrate the power of the army. The President of the professional baseball league of Venezuela was a civilian named Abraham Bacallao, a wealthy Caracas merchant. Since he was not considered politically reliable, the government named a commissioner of baseball, a major Benjamin Maldonado, to supercede him. The baseball league is now run militarily. The secretary of the he got disgusted with the way league is a friend to see Major Maldonado to present his resignation. 25X1X6 He was quite bitter about the situation and crossed a few words with the major, who promptly took out his gun and told him: "Your resignation would be an insult to the army. You are not resigning." He is still secretary of the league.

Construction of Public Works/Standard of Living

7. Perez Jimenez has embarked in a spectacular campaign of public works and seems to be determined to be remembered as the greatest builder of superhighways, tunnels and skyscrapers in the history of Venezuela. Some of the great buildings seem to be entirely out of proportion with the economic level of the country ... and although the country is enjoying a tremendous boom, it still has a long way to go in sanitation, education and general welfare to reach what we would consider a of Venezuela was much the same medium standard of living. The impression a woman wearing a mink coat over dirty and ragged underwear.

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